(c) if not, whether Government propose to do so keeping in view the prevalence of Japanese Encephalitis in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) whether Government will involve WHO/UNICEF in this evaluation programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Mouse brain derived inactivated Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccine is the only vaccine commercially available in the international market and approved by World Health Organisation (WHO) and Drugs Controller General of India. Indian Council of Medical Research has informed that Chinese vaccine derived recombinant type Japanese Encephalitis vaccine was tested on monkeys and the data demonstrated that the vaccine is safe, immunogenic and protective in non-human primates. It is, therefore, too early to say that Chinese vaccine derived recombinant type Japanese Encephalitis vaccine is also more effective for Japanese Encephalitis.

(b) to (d) Recombinant JE vaccine manufactured in China has not been approved by WHO. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been permitted to import inactivated mouse brain JE vaccine after obtaining clearance from Drugs Controller General of India to meet the shortage of the vaccine.

Telemedicine facility

2653. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently inaugurated a Telemedicine Project in New Delhi and physicians at a Chennai hospital advised two heart patients in Port Blair;

(b) if so, the salient features of this project; and

(c) how does his Ministry propose to spread this facility to the nook and corner of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration has informed that there was interaction

between Super Specialists of Sri Ramachandra Medical College & Research Institute, Chennai and Specialists of G.B. Pant Hospital when two Cardiac patients were presented for Specialists consultation, advice and treatment before a Cardiologist and a Cardio Thoracic Surgeon of Sri Ramachandra Medical College & Research Institute, Chennai.

The Department of Space has intimated that the Telemedicine connectivity has been provided between G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair, Andaman and Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Instiutute, Chennai under The ISRO's Telemedicine Pilot Project to bring health care for the rural, distant and off shore Island through satellite.

The telemedicine system consists of customized medical software integrated with computer hardware along with medical diagnostic instruments, connected to VSATs at each of the patient end (Port Blair) & expert doctors (Chennai) and linked through INSAT satellite. Generally the medical record/history of the patient is sent to the specialist Doctors who in turn study, provide diagnosis and treatment during video conference with the patient end.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Non-functional CT Scan machines in MCD-run hospitals

2654. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that for the past couple of years, CT Scan machines installed in the Capital's two MCD-run hospitals have been out of order;

(b) if so, whether the machines, costing over Rs. 2.35 crores each were installed in 1993 but after they stopped functioning in 1999, they have neither been repaired nor replaced;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted;

(d) if so, the details of the report; and

(e) the steps being taken to make these machines workable?